

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 EB-07 DHA-02 ORM-02 PC-05

SCA-01 SCS-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SSO-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 /103 W

-----067475 240134Z /73

O P 240052Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3438

INFO AMCONSUL AUCKLAND PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY SUVA PRIORITY

SEISMO BOULDER PRIORITY

UNCLAS WELLINGTON 2391

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TPHY

SUBJECT: PRELIMINARY REPORT ON TONGAN EARTHQUAKE

REF: SUVA 783 (NOTAL)

1. WELLINGTON SEISMIC OBSERVATORY REPORTS EARTHQUAKE OF LARGE MAGNITUDE AND CENTERED BETWEEN KERMADEC AND TONGA ISLANDS OCCURRED APPROXIMATELY 1210 HURS. GMT JUNE 22. FORCE ESTIMATED BY OBSERVATORY AT 8 ON RICHTER SCALE AND DURATION ABOUT THREE MINUTES. (NEW ZEALAND PRESS REPORTS USGS SEISMIC READING OF 7.2 RICHTER.

2. BASED ON PRELIMINARY REPORTS OF WIDESPREAD DAMAGE IN TONGA, SUVA CHARGE FLANEGIN HAS FLOWN TODAY TO NUKU'ALOFA FOR ON-THE-SPOT SURVEY AND PLANS RETURN THIS EVENING WITH DAMAGE ASSESSMENT. WILL KEEP DEPARTMENT ADVISED.

3. GNZ MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ADVISES RADIO LINK COMMUNICATIONS HAVE BEEN RE-ESTABLISHED WITH NUKU'ALOFA AND THAT GNZ HIGH COMMISSIONER REPORTS FOLLOWING SITUATION EXISTS TONGA:

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(A) US PEACE CORPS HEADQUARTERS SEVERELY DAMAGED WITH OCCUPANTS ADVISED TO WITHDRAW FROM STRUCTURE PENDING FULL STRUCTURAL ASSESSMENT (SEE REFTTEL);

(B) NO RPT. NO PEACE CORPS INJURIES, AND
"BUSINESS AS USUAL ALTHOUGH UNDER REDUCED CIRCUMSTANCES;"

(C) NO DEATH REPORTED: TWO SERIOUS INJURIES REPORTED
ON MAIN ISLAND;

(C) EXTENSIVE STRUCTURAL DAMAGE TO BUILDINGS ON MAIN
ISLAND INCLUDING TWO MAIN WHARVES, CHURCH BELL TOWERS,
PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICES AND HOSPITAL;

(E) REPORTS FROM OUTER ISLANDS AWAITED, INCLUDING ISLAND
OF EUA WHERE WORST DAMAGE BELIEVED TO HAVE OCCURRED ALTHOUGH
NO INJURIES OR DEATHS REPORTED THERE EITHER.
SELDEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EARTHQUAKES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 24-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977WELLIN02391
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770225-0774
Format: TEL
From: WELLINGTON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770619/aaaaaqip.tel
Line Count: 74
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8ddb7e76-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AID
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 SUVA 783
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2033092
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRELIMINARY REPORT ON TONGAN EARTHQUAKE
TAGS: TPHY, SWEL, TN
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8ddb7e76-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
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22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009